

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2007

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Intellectual Property
B-370B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Conyers and Scott:

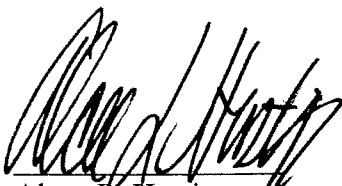
We write to ask that you convene a hearing on the persistent problems in the juvenile justice system and treatment at juvenile boot camps in Florida and throughout the country. As you may know, seven guards were recently acquitted in the October 12, 2007 verdict of the Martin Lee Anderson case in Bay County, Florida. This outcome has prompted us to contact you with our deep concerns.

According to testimony taken during the case, as well as countless press accounts, significant evidence suggests that discriminatory treatment has frequently occurred at juvenile boot camps. The unfortunate consequence of such treatment has not only been death of Anderson, but also others in recent years, including Omar Paisley. Paisley was denied treatment for a burst appendix in a Miami-Dade County juvenile boot camp and those responsible for failing to act were never held accountable. The negligence, violent punishment, and disciplinary procedures that many youths within these camps endure reflects a defunct paradigm that by no means rehabilitates at-risk youth, nor serves the intended purposes of the juvenile justice system.

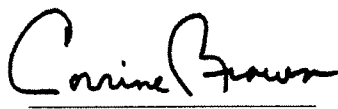
A hearing will help to illuminate the injustices and discriminatory administration that pervade our juvenile justice system. We offer our support, as well as that of our staff, in helping to accommodate this request.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this any further, please do not hesitate to contact any of us or have your staff contact Alex Johnson in Representative Hastings' office at 5-1313. We look forward to your expeditious response.


Sincerely,



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress